

REMARKS

On page 2 of the final Action, claims 1, 3-7 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Hayashi. On page 6 of the final Action, claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Hiroyuki.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 5, 6 and 8-13 have been amended, and new claim 14 has been filed. Especially, claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended such that the rotor has a smooth outer periphery extending continuously without interruption.

A damper of Hayashi includes a housing 10, a rotor 20, and a cover member 28. The rotor 20 includes a base 26 having a ring shape, and fin portions 24 projecting radially outwardly from the base 26 through narrowed portions 38. Since the fin portions 24 project radially outwardly from the base 26, the rotor 20 does not have a smooth outer periphery extending continuously without interruption, as recited in claims 1, 8 and 11. Therefore, Hayashi does not disclose the features of claims 1, 8 and 11.

Hiroyuki cited in the final Action has a rotor in a disc shape with small holes. However, Hiroyuki does not disclose or suggest the air retention portions and other structures, as recited in claims 1, 8 and 11.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 8 and 11, and their dependent claims are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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